UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/86
28 January 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia on 27 January 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Humphrey B. KUNDA
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

99-02194 (E) 280199

/...

Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia on 27 January 1999

The Government of the Republic of Zambia wishes to confirm that on 14 January 1999, it received a letter from the Government of Angola in which the latter alleged that it has in its possession "credible information" confirming substantial involvement of the Zambian authorities in the logistic and military support sent to Dr. Savimbi inside Angola to perpetuate the war and the suffering of the Angolan people.

In accordance with normal diplomatic practice, on 18 January 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia summoned the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Angola in order for him to explain his Government's serious allegations. The Chargé d'affaires was further asked to convey to his Government the request of the Government of the Republic of Zambia to make available the information implicating Zambia which the Angolan authorities say they have in their possession so that such information could be investigated.

Since then, no response has been received from the Government of Angola. Therefore, on 26 January 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs again summoned the Chargé d'affaires of Angola to seek some indication of when the information in question could be given to us. The Chargé d'affaires reported that he had not received any response although he had conveyed the message to his Government on several occasions.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia wishes to state that similar allegations have been made in the past by the Government of Angola. During the course of 1998, persistent accusations by Angola against Zambia led the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to separately carry out verification missions to the areas where the Government of Angola alleged that Zambia was transporting arms to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Both organizations, however, cleared Zambia of the allegations. In addition to the United Nations and OAU missions, numerous Angola/Zambia Joint Inspection Team verification missions have been undertaken in the past year. These have also found no evidence to implicate Zambia.

However, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has noted that while awaiting evidence about the latest allegations, the Government of Angola has decided to issue a press release naming Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Togo, Burkina Faso and "some individuals of South Africa's former regime", as supporting Dr. Savimbi in rearming. The Government of Angola has further threatened "to wage a war without truce against Dr. Savimbi and his co-religionists".

The Government of the Republic of Zambia is not only disappointed at these allegations, but considers it unfortunate that the Government of Angola has not brought up the issue within the bilateral frameworks which have been established by the two countries for such purposes, or through the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security of the Southern Africa Development Community, which is the relevant subregional framework. In the absence of the "credible information

that confirms Zambia's involvement", the Government of the Republic of Zambia has no reason to believe the existence or credibility of the said information. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Zambia calls upon:

(a) The Government of Angola to provide this "credible information" in the spirit of good neighbourliness and peace in the subregion;

(b) The international community, including the United Nations as custodian of international peace and security, and the OAU, to send independent monitors to thoroughly investigate these allegations.